

(c) The Government of India have enacted the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act (SICA) 1985 and established the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) with a view to arranging the timely detection of sick and potentially sick companies and for the speedy determination by a Board of Experts (BIFR) of the preventive, ameliorative, remedial and other measures which need to be taken in respect of such mills.

No. of Textile Mills registered with BIFR as on 31.1.97 in the State of Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh are respectively 17 (including 11 cotton/man-made fibre textile mills) and 33 (including 19 cotton/man-made fibre textile mills). The cases of these mills registered with the BIFR are at various stages of enquiry, and further action in respect of these mills will be taken in the light of the findings of the BIFR.

The Government of India have so far identified 34 units all over the country as being eligible for relief under the textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) which was established to provide relief to the eligible workers of eligible closed textile mills. However, no mill in the State of Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh has been so far identified as being eligible for receiving relief under the said scheme.

Permission to import Raw Materials Under EPCGS

4339 SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has urged the Government to allow import of raw materials and consumables at concessional duty under the Export Promotion Capital Goods Schemes.

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the present position of import of capital goods at concessional duty under Export-Import Policy (1992-97)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir.

The proposal of Confederation of Industry to allow import of raw materials consumables at concessional duties under EPCG Scheme is under examination in consultation with the concerned Administrative Ministries.

The present position under the Export and Import Policy (1992-97) is that import of capital goods and components are permitted to be imported under concessional duty 15% or zero Duty subject to specified conditions and

fulfilment of export obligation. Details of the Scheme are given under Chapter VI of Export & Import Policy & Procedures 1992-97.

Court Management Project

4340. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh High Court is contemplating a court management project for speedy disposal of civil cases which have been pending with the courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to initiate such project in all the High Courts for speedy disposal of pending civil cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c) The information is being collecting and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Shortage of Cotton

4341. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cotton mills functioning in Uttar Pradesh at present;

(b) whether the cotton mills in the State are facing difficulties in getting cotton;

(c) whether the rate of cotton are very high, and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R. L. JALAPPA) : (a) 63 Cotton/man-made Fibre Textile Mills were functioning in the State of Uttar Pradesh as on 31.12.96.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) In the early part of the year the prices were lower compared to the previous year, while they are now marginally higher.

Production of Rubber

4342 SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total production and requirement of rubber and raw rubber during each of the last three years in the country;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the export of rubber products;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the total quantity of rubber products with its volume which is likely to be exported during 1997-98 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The production and consumption of Natural Rubber/Raw Rubber and Synthetic Rubber in the country during the last three years are as under :

(in thousands MT)

Year	Natural/Raw Rubber		Synthetic Rubber	
	Production	Consumption	Production	Consumption
1994-95	472	486	64	123
1995-96	507	525	68	134
1995-97 (e)	549	570	64	143

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to increase the export of rubber products include extension of Market Development Assistance, liberalisation of policy and procedures, promotional measures like exchange of trade delegations and participation in Trade Fairs abroad and exchange and dissemination of information through Export Promotion Council (CAPEXIL)

(d) The estimated value of rubber products likely to be exported during 1997-98 is Rs. 1390 crore.

Open Cast Mine Project

4343 SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Western Coalfields Limited authorities have allocated mine sites to one of the Ispat Group for Bhatadi Open Cast mine project in violation of the rules;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any representations against the allotment of site for Bhatadi Open Cast Mine project; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) Bhatadih

Opencast project has not been allocated to any private organisation and is being worked by Western Coalfields Limited.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Disinvestment Fund

4344 SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal regarding setting up a disinvestment fund instead of financial support from the budget for the public sector undertakings is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (c) There is no proposal for setting up a disinvestment fund instead of financial support from budget for the public sector undertakings. It has, however, been decided to set up a revolving fund out of part proceeds of disinvestment to supplement budgetary support being extended as at present.

[English]

India Brand Equity Fund

4345 SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has decided to leverage specialised international funds to raise the Rs. 500 crore corpus for the India Brand Equity Fund;

(b) if so, the total funds tapped so far;

(c) how are these to be used to promote Indian generic products;

(d) how these funds are likely to be managed; and

(e) how the India Brand Equity Fund is expected to concentrate on some selected markets and products and its role in boosting exports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b)